

HCS HB 253 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass Consent" by the Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, a school district is authorized to create and enter into a partnership with area career centers, comprehensive high schools, industry, and businesses to develop and implement a pathway for students to: enroll in a program of career and technical education while in high school; participate and complete an internship or apprenticeship during their final year of high school; obtain the industry certification or credentials applicable to their program or career and technical education and internship or apprenticeship. This bill allows a school district to rely on technical coursework and skills assessments developed for industry-recognized certificates and credentials.

The bill requires the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council to annually review, update, approve, and recommend a list of industry certifications, state-issued professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments. A school district may use the list as a resource in establishing programs of study that meet their regional workforce needs under Section 170.029, RSMo.

This bill also modifies the composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council by adding the Director of the Department of Economic Development, or his or her designee.

This bill is similar to HB 188 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this helps students to be ready to work in specific areas or to continue on with more specialized training. This bill will help to bring back focus to career and technical education. It will also help to train students and get the local community involved to support the needs of the community. There is a great focus on sending students to college but there is a shortage of technical/vocational students. This kind of training is essential.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; St. Louis Community College; Missouri State Teachers Association; Microsoft Corporation; Missouri Association For Career And Technical Education; Missouri School Board Association; School Administrators Coalition; Missouri Education Reform Council; AFT St. Louis Local 420; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Missouri

National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.